

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th October 1897.

## CONTENTS:

	Page.		Page.
<b>I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.</b>		<b>III.—LEGISLATIVE.</b>	
Nil.		Nil.	
<b>II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.</b>		<b>IV.—NATIVE STATES.</b>	
<b>(a)—Police—</b>		The offer of Native Chiefs to serve in the Frontier expedition ... 924	
A suspicious death in Chittagong town ...	919	<b>V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.</b>	
Officers of the Gajol thana in the Malda district ...	ib.	Nil.	
An order of the Police Superintendent of Patna ...	ib.	<b>VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.</b>	
Police oppression in Kumarkhali ...	ib.	An invocation to the goddess Durga ... 925	
<b>(b)—Working of the Courts—</b>		Native ajournalism in mourning ... ib.	
The decision in the Tilak case ...	ib.	The <i>Hitavadi</i> in black on account of Mr. Tilak's incarceration ... ib.	
The touting nuisance in Tippera ...	920	Tilak's imprisonment ... ib.	
Hearing of appeals by prisoners in Malda ...	921		
Favouritism by Mr. Heard in the enrolment of mukhtars ...	ib.	<b>URIYA PAPERS.</b>	
A severe judicial sentence ...	ib.	Condition of the roads within the Balasore Municipality ... 926	
<b>(c)—Jails—</b>		A princely donation in aid of an educational institution ... ib.	
Nil.		A press law ... ib.	
<b>(d)—Education—</b>		The Orissa settlement ... ib.	
The Principal of Canning College, Lucknow ...	ib.	The Naib tahsildarship of Sambalpur ... ib.	
The last Middle Examinations ...	ib.	Condition of a road within the Balasore Municipality ... ib.	
<i>Nutanpath</i> ...	922	Relief operations in the Ganjam district ... ib.	
The Central Text-Book Committee ...	ib.	Proposed amendment of section 124A of the Indian Penal Code ... 927	
<b>(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—</b>		The Orissa settlement ... ib.	
Nil.		The Bengal Tenancy Act Amendment Bill ... ib.	
<b>(f)—Questions affecting the land—</b>		Separation of executive from judicial functions ... ib.	
Nil.		Uriya zamindars and raiyats in distress ... ib.	
<b>(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—</b>		<b>ASSAM PAPERS</b>	
The alleged assault case at the Lakshmisarai station ...	ib.	Delay in disposal of cases in Cachar ... 928	
<b>(h)—General—</b>		The Police Sub-inspector of Hailakandi ... ib.	
What the Government's press policy should be ...	923	The Cachar Police ... ib.	
Mr. Cotton's report on the Assam earthquake ...	924		



## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta	20,000	2nd October, 1897.	
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto	.....	30th September, 1897.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800		
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	1st October, 1897.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	2nd ditto.	
6	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	28th September, 1897.	
7	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	1st October, 1897.	
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	2nd ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	4th ditto.	
10	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto	.....	2nd ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	300		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." ...	Ditto	1,000		
3	"Samvad Prabhakkar" ...	Ditto	1,132		
4	"Samvad Parnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	200	29th September, 1897.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	30th ditto and 1st October, 1897.	
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Marwari Gazette" ...	Ditto	.....		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000		
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000		
<b>PERSIAN.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	500		
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Al Kunz" ...	Ditto	.....		
2	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	310		
3	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto	330		
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>					
1	"Nusrat-ul-Islam" ...	Ditto	.....		
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna	.....	3rd October, 1897.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	500		
2	"Bankura Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	.....		
3	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	250	28th September, 1897.	
4	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	620	26th ditto.	
5	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,280	1st October, 1897.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	696	29th September, 1897.	
2	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto	603		



No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	<b>URIYA.</b>	<b>ORISSA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	18th August, 1897 ...	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190	19th and 26th August, 1897.	
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309	18th and 25th ditto.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	480	21st and 28th ditto.	
	<b>HINDI.</b>	<b>PATNA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
	<b>URDU.</b>				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400		
3	"Tah Zeeb" ...	Patna ...	.....		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>BHAGALPUR DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Gaur Varta" ...	Malda ...	.....	30th September, 1897.	
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>RAJSHAHI DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	243	29th ditto ...	This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180	30th ditto.	
	<b>HINDI.</b>				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	700		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>DACCA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	.....		
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	315	25th ditto.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	.....		
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	27th ditto.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400		
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....		
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	About 500	2nd October, 1897.	
	<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>CHITTAGONG DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	.....	1st fortnight of Aswin, 1304 B.S.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120	29th September, 1897.	
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>ASSAM.</b>			
1	"Peridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	1st fortnight of Aswin, 1304 B.S.	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	.....	2nd fortnight of Bhadra, 1304 B.S.	





## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

The *Sansodhini* of the 29th September says that a Musalman stranger who came to Chittagong town on the 27th September last, being unable to find quarters in the town, was committed by one Haripada Babu to the care of the police. It is not known where he was kept by the police that night. He was, however, found walking in charge of a constable the next morning, but he sat down on the way being unable to walk any more and soon fell down dead. People are suspecting the police in connection with this death. If the man was ill, why was he made to go the round of the town? Why was a stranger, again, kept in lock-up? An enquiry should be made into the matter.

SANSODHINI,  
Sept. 29th, 1897.

2. The *Gaurvarta* of the 30th September has received a complaint that the police officers of the Gajol thana are in the habit of letting loose their 17 or 18 cattle on the fields of the cultivators to their great injury. No one in the thana pays any heed to complaints on this score and the cattle are not received in the pound. On the contrary, a complaining cultivator is abused. The District Magistrate and the Police Superintendent are requested to attend to the matter.

GAUR VARTA,  
Sept. 30th, 1897.

3. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st October says that the Police Superintendent of Patna has forbidden the Hindu residents of Dinapur to walk in procession along streets with flags on the day of the *Dasaharâ* festival, as the Musalmans may take it for an imitation of their Muharram procession. On this line of reasoning every sort of procession must be interdicted, for Musalmans may object to each as an imitation of their Muharram procession. The Police Superintendent has done wrong in wounding the feelings of the Hindus by raising an imaginary objection which Musalmans have never thought of making. No groundless objection raised by any community should be regarded. It is indiscretions like that of the Police Superintendent which often lead to quarrels between Hindus and Musalmans and involve Government in troubles.

HITAVADI,  
Oct. 1st, 1897.

4. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd October complains of police oppression in Kumarkhali, in the Nadia district. A constable attached to the local thana wanted to get a fish from a fisherman at a nominal price. The fisherman refused to accept his terms and part with the fish. The constable tried to snatch the fish away. There was a struggle in which the fisherman had his head dashed against a post. Upon this, his brother slapped the constable, who at once communicated the news to the police station. A posse of constables arrived on the scene, thrashed the fisherman's two brothers and took them to the thana where, however, they were at once released by the Sub-Inspector. The injured fishermen have prosecuted some of the constables, who in their turn have reported against them to the higher authorities. It is said that in the confusion which took place during the struggle between the fishermen and the constables, money and fish belonging to the former were looted. The correspondent was an eye-witness of the whole affair, but his account of it may not tally with the garbled version of the police or the complaint of the fishermen.

SANJIVANI,  
Oct. 2nd, 1897.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

5. The *Tripura Hitaishi* for the 1st fortnight of Aswin 1304 B.S., has the following:—

The decision in the Tilak case.

The Hon'ble Bal Gangadhar Tilak has been convicted of exciting disaffection and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for eighteen months. This news has pierced our heart as if with a red hot iron rod; the whole country is cast down with grief. Mr. Tilak's punishment would have gladdened our heart if we could have believed that he was really guilty of the offence of which he has been convicted, if our knowledge of Marathi could have induced us to find anything of a seditious nature in the articles alleged to be incriminating, if, in short, there had been anything to show that Mr. Tilak had the overthrow of British rule in India in his view. If Mr. Tilak

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,  
1st fortnight of  
Aswin, 1304 B. S.



had deserved the punishment which has been inflicted on him, no one would have sympathised with him, his countrymen would not certainly have shed tears over his fate. We knew it for certain that Mr. Tilak was undone and that there was no escape for him when an inexperienced Judge was chosen to try his case, when a jury mostly consisting of Europeans was empanelled, when the Judge misinterpreted the law in his charge to the jury, and when no expert evidence was called to explain the meaning of the original articles. If Mr. Justice Strachey's interpretation of section 124A of the Indian Penal Code were the right interpretation, any unfavourable criticism of a Government measure would be seditious. Mr. Tilak, the glory of the Deccan Brahmins, the leader of the Hindu society in the Deccan and a Member of the Bombay Legislative Council is now confined in jail with robbers, thieves and cheats. What a fate for a man who helped in the enactment of laws, who, as the head of the Poona Servajanik Sabha, wisely discussed political questions of great importance, and at whose name the Mahratta community bows down its head in reverence. Insulted, harassed and punished, Mr. Tilak has been further branded with the ignominy of a traitor. We would not have been sorry for him if he had really been guilty. His rank, his position, his education would not have excited our sympathy. But it is impossible to suspect him of a treasonable motive. An offspring of English education, honoured by the English Government, Mr. Tilak could not certainly have followed a suicidal policy. The destruction of the British Government means in his case nothing less than self-destruction. How can we then believe that he intended the destruction of the British Government? Mr. Tilak was tried by a Judge and jury who were totally ignorant of Marathi. The European jurors found him guilty while the Marathi-knowing jurors declared him innocent. Is it necessary to say who was right and who was wrong? Mr. Tilak next appealed to the Full Bench, but in vain. We are not convinced of the justice of the sentence passed on him and this is why we are sorry for him. But is Mr. Tilak himself sorry for his punishment? Certainly not. He knows that the path of politics is a thorny one and that the life of a self-sacrificing patriot is not a life of ease and comfort. If Mr. Tilak is sorry for anything, it is for the fact that he has been most unjustly branded with treason. His sudden and unexpected arrest in a friend's house did not disturb his equanimity; he expected that justice would be done to him by the High Court. But he was disappointed. The jury returned an unjust verdict and he was sentenced to imprisonment. But even then, even when he was heavily punished, Mr. Tilak stood firm as a rock. Feelingly, but firmly, he declared that he was innocent. If he had been really guilty his heart would have broken. But Mr. Tilak still hopes and we hope with him that the Privy Council will do him justice.

Tilak, genius incarnate, we cannot but weep when we think of your fate. Eight years ago, you gave proof of your genius, your fortitude, your self-sacrifice in the Fergusson College. We think of that day and shed tears for you. You declined the offer of a Sub-Judgeship so that you might be free in serving your country and your countrymen. Your learning, your self-sacrifice marked you out as the leader of the Mahratta community. A poor Brahman, you were elected by the Deccan sardars as their head and returned to the Legislative Council as their representative. Only the other day you made a large-headed, loyal speech at the Calcutta Congress. Who can think you to be seditiously bent? If you were really guilty of sedition, if you ever harboured rebellious motives in your bosom, we would not be sorry for your fate. We will blot out from our memory all loving impressions of you; we will forget your genius, your patriotism, your self-sacrifice. But if you are innocent, God will do you justice. With God overhead, pass resignedly the eighteen months of your imprisonment.

TRIPURA HITASHI,  
1st fortnight of  
Aswin, 1304 B.S.

6. The same paper complains of touting nuisance in the Tippera courts. The passing of the Legal Practitioners Act has not put a stop to this nuisance. Driven out of the Criminal Courts the touters have found a safe shelter in the Civil Courts. The District Judge of Tippera has issued a list of touters and prohibited their practising in his Courts. But many of these have received the Judge's permission to carry on their trade on submitting certificates from distinguished lawyers. Nothing short of an improvement in the moral character of the



lawyers can or will put a stop to the touting nuisance. A few prosecutions of lawyers are needed to effectually suppress the touting nuisance.

7. The *Gaurvarta* of the 30th September complains that, unlike the Courts of other districts, the Judge's and the Magistrate's Courts in the Malda district do not inform prisoners in jails of the dates fixed for a hearing of their appeals. The result is that the prisoners cannot secure legal aid.

GAUR VARTA  
Sept. 30th, 1897.

8. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st October says that in no subdivision of the Sonthal Parganas can mukhtars and petition-writers be enrolled in excess of the number fixed for it. But Mr. Heard has lately violated this rule by enrolling one Srinandan Roy, a man who passed the mukhtarship examination only the other day, as a mukhtar at Deoghur. He did not however make this concession in favour of an old mukhtar of Dacca named Purna Chandra Basu and of Babu Kirti Chandra Ojha, a teacher of the Deoghur School, who passed the mukhtarship examination four or five years ago. How has Babu Srinandan propitiated Mr. Heard, that the latter could not refuse him this favour? Was it for the evidence which he gave against Babu Sakham Ganes Deuskar?

HITAVADI,  
Oct. 1st, 1897.

9. The same paper says that military grass-cutters are in the habit of committing great oppression at Mahestala within the 24-Parganas district. Suits against them do not result in much good, for even if convicted, they are let off with light punishment. Lately, the grass-cutters charged four villagers with assault. The Joint-Magistrate of Alipore has sentenced these villagers to one year's rigorous imprisonment each. Admitting that these villagers, unable to bear oppression, took the law into their own hands, this sentence appears too hard. It will have the effect of encouraging the grass-cutters. The authorities are requested to attend to this matter.

HITAVADI.

(d)—Education.

10. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st October says that three students of Canning College, Lucknow, having come to college with black ribbons on, as a sign of mourning for Tilak's incarceration, the Principal required them to make a written apology for their conduct. The students did as they were bid and the Principal allowed them to attend lectures as before, but at the same time required them to bring also a written apology from their guardians for their conduct. The Principal seems to have had his judgment perverted, like other Anglo-Indians, or he would rather commend the students for their patriotic feeling. As for his demand of a written apology from the guardians, it is in the highest degree absurd. Why should the guardians apologize for any offence of which their wards may have been guilty, particularly when the students said that they had not consulted their guardians as to the propriety of wearing black ribbons?

HITAVADI,  
Oct. 1st, 1897.

11. Correspondents of the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd October complain of anomalies in the last Middle Vernacular and Middle English examinations:—

SANJIVANI,  
Oct. 2nd, 1897.

*Sirajganj*.—In spite of Dr. Martin's instructions to the contrary, questions were set which were quite unsuited to the capacity of the candidates, and were at the same time beyond the curriculum. A question was set from page 153 of *Saubhagya Sopan*, a text-book for the Middle Vernacular Scholarship examination, although it was laid down that candidates would not be required to read more than 134 pages of the book. This question was cast in an English mould. It is a regret that questions on Bengali literature should be set by persons not well versed in Bengali. The questions on English literature evidently set by the Head-master of an Entrance school were beyond the capacity of the candidates. The Examiner may set these questions to the students of the first class of an Entrance school in order to ascertain whether they are at all fit for the students of the first class of a Middle English school, which corresponds to the fifth class of an Entrance school. It is to be hoped



that Dr. Martin's attention will be drawn to the papers on English and Bengali, and that he will do justice to the poor candidates.

*Dacca.*—A change has this year been made in the rules for the middle examinations, without giving a proper and sufficient notice to the schools. So long candidates had been required to secure 27 *per cent.* of marks to pass in Bengali, English and Arithmetic and 20 *per cent.* in History and Geography, taken together, to pass in that subject. On the eve of the examination it was laid down that candidates would be required to secure 20 *per cent.* of marks to pass in Geography and Science, respectively. This change was useless and unnecessary, and a notice of it was sent to the schools only five weeks before the examinations commenced. No information was at all sent to many schools. Eight or ten schools in the Narainganj subdivision of the Dacca district, for instance, got no notice. The paper on Geography was, moreover, very stiff. Who is to be held responsible for all these anomalies?

SANJIVANI,  
Oct. 2nd, 1897.

12. The Editor of the *Hitavadi* not having published an answer to the articles in his paper, criticising *Nutanpath*, the answer is published in this paper.

SOM PRAKASH,  
Oct 4th, 1897.

13. The *Som Prakash* of the 4th October is tired of pointing out the faults of the Central Text-Book Committee, and it is the disgrace of the educated members of the Committee that they have not profited by these criticisms. Is self-interest so predominant that it leads the members of the Committee to trample upon justice and righteousness? It is the inferior sort of books which are selected by the Committee, and the better sort of books have no chance of approval, unless they are written by one of the Committee or are printed in a particular press. But these are old complaints. The Committee has lately appointed a text-book which is not free from grammatical errors and even from obscene thoughts. *Palasir Yuddha* is a glory of Bengali literature, but even its school edition, approved by the Committee, is not free from grammatical errors and obscene thoughts. Is that a book fit to be put into the hands of school-boys?

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

HITAVADI,  
Oct. 1st, 1897.

14. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st October says that the Chief Engineer, East Indian Railway, made the following report to the Agent on the alleged seduction and assault by Mr. Longbottom, at the Lakshmisarai station:—

“To the Agent, East Indian Railway, Calcutta:

Alleged assault by Mr. Longbottom. In reply to your reference of the 10th ultimo from the editor of the *Hitavadi*, I beg to inform you that having made enquiries from all concerned who were likely to have any personal knowledge of what occurred, I find that the facts are not as stated by the above-named editor.

2. I enclose for information the following documents:—

- (a) Copy of Magistrate's judgment;
- (b) Statement of station-master;
- (c) Letter No. 0188S.B., dated 7th September 1897, to Mr. Kerby, Assistant Engineer, under whom Mr. Longbottom was serving;
- (d) Reply by Mr. Kerby, dated 13th September 1897.”

The report of the affair given in this paper is, however, substantially borne out by the Magistrate's judgment referred to above. It would show how little entitled to belief was Mr. Longbottom's plea that he had no evil intention in taking the woman by rail to Calcutta. It matters little whether the woman is Shaikh Jafar's wife or his mistress, but it is a very serious offence for a railway officer to take a woman by force to a railway station, and there beat a man who comes to her rescue.

If Colonel Gardiner had now been in India, the offender would not have escaped so easily as he has done. The authorities can easily get at the truth if they bear in mind that railway officers are very anxious to screen their peccant brother officers, and that natives are very unwilling to make the fact of any assault upon their women, public. The writer is tired of complaining



of railway oppressions. Every officer, from the Viceroy downwards, has tried to put a stop to these oppressions, but to no purpose. The writer has often been threatened with prosecution for defamation for bringing such oppressions to light. In this very case the Chief Engineer proposed to prosecute him for defamation. He has also often been accused by heads of departments of raking up old matters. But he cannot for all that refrain from referring to such oppressions. The writer requests the railway authorities to punish their offending subordinates. Under a railway circular, Mr. Longbottom is liable to dismissal for having beaten a native at a railway station.

(h)--General.

15. The *Samay* of the 1st October has the following:—

What the Government's press policy should be.

In 1857, the *Friend of India* wrote seditious articles. There was no doubt about their seditious character as there has been about the seditious character of the articles in the *Kesari* and the *Pratod*, of which only English translations were before the Court. Mutiny was still raging in the country and universal discontent prevailed. The writings of the Anglo-Indian paper were highly calculated to lead to undesirable consequences. But Lord Canning refused to prosecute the paper and contented himself with letting it off with a warning. During the Ilbert Bill controversy also the Anglo-Indian press raised a tremendous hue and cry and conducted itself in a most objectionable manner. But Lord Ripon's Government did not institute legal proceedings against it. Lord Lytton was no friend of the vernacular press, but even he refused to prosecute any vernacular paper, in spite of the solicitation of a Provincial Government. But now when there is peace and tranquillity in the country, the Bombay Government has prosecuted vernacular papers right and left, on mere suspicion, and has visited some of them with terrible punishment, although their guilt has not been clearly proved.

Only the other day the officer in charge of a German arsenal divulged official secrets to the French authorities. For this serious offence, however, the accused was sentenced to imprisonment for only six years and three months. Basudeva was transported to Aden for rebellion against the Government. Did the editors of the *Kesari* and the *Pratod* offend against the Government as treasonably as the German officer or the Indian rebel?

The thing is that if the Government is not disposed to listen to the complaints and grievances of the people, if it is not prepared to redress their wrongs or to make its own measures unobjectionable in the eye of the public, let it revive the Press Act of 1878. Lord Lytton once said that it was in his opinion more desirable to make seditious writings impossible than to punish seditious writers. The prosecution of a paper for seditious writings only served to give them wider publicity. Lord Lytton's words are true to the letter. Let our rulers ponder over and profit by them. If, however, the Government does not wish to suppress the vernacular papers, let it pursue a different policy from what it is pursuing at present. The Bombay trials have shown that the conviction or acquittal of a prisoner depends entirely upon the discretion of the Judge, let the law be whatever it may. Could Mr. Justice Strachey otherwise ignore the interpretations of section 124A of the Indian Penal Code made by an eminent jurist like Lord Hobhouse, Sir Charles Peile, Sir Fitz James Stephen and Sir John Strachey, and punish Mr. Tilak on the strength of a wrong interpretation of the section made by himself? According to Mr. Justice Strachey's interpretation of the law, absence of affection means disaffection; one who does not love the Government, is its enemy. Take an instance. The plague attacks Calcutta. The Government adopts strict measures to put it down. One of such measures, let us suppose, is to isolate plague patients—a measure to which even the people of enlightened Europe would naturally object. We object to this measure, call it objectionable, but submit to it without any opposition. According to Mr. Justice Strachey, we are the Government's enemy. Not to love is, in his opinion, to hate. To tell the truth, His Lordship's interpretation has led to this consequence. Editors of newspapers will have henceforward to write with a sword hanging over their heads. Criticism of Government measures and of the conduct of public officers has been made a dangerous

SAMAY,  
Oct 1st, 1897.



affair—ventilation of popular grievances, a well-nigh impossible task. The new interpretation of section 124A of the Indian Penal Code virtually requires newspapers to refrain from criticising Government measures or pointing out the errors of public officers. Let them praise the Government and never condemn it. In fact, the object of the new interpretation of the law seems to be to destroy the usefulness of the press and make independent journalism an impossibility. Independent journalism is in danger. This is the reason why the verdict in the Tilak case threw the Mahratta journalists into a panic and led them to apply for the cancellation of their names from the list of editors. Cannot the Government realise the probable consequences of Mr. Justice Strachey's interpretation of the seditious section? Journalism will now become the monopoly of a few low-minded writers who will never cease praising the Government and concealing the true state of things. Will the Government be satisfied with leaving the duty of representing the people in the hands of such irresponsible writers?

We humbly pray the Government to follow one of two courses. Let it either try to get a satisfactory and reasonable interpretation of section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, or—if the criticism of Government measures has become unbearable to it—let it revive the Press Act of 1878. If neither of these two courses is adopted, people will think that the law is honoured more in the breach than in the observance under the British Government, and that the Government interprets the law to suit its purpose. This will not be to the credit of the Government. Independent journalists will give up journalism and people will think that independent journalism is hated by the Government.

SANJIVANI,  
Oct. 2nd, 1897.

16. An Assamese takes exception in the columns of the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd October to certain statements contained in the Chief Commissioner's report on the Assam earthquake. It is stated in paragraph 8 of the report that the natives were not, like the Europeans, rendered completely houseless. Did Mr. Cotton inspect the whole of Shillong town before arriving at this conclusion? Has the Chief Commissioner completely forgotten the case of the native residents of the jail road who took shelter with their families in the Laban market, but were driven out of that place to pass a terrible night on the public road? Mr. Cotton is certainly aware that it has been proposed to give some residents of the jail road a *ti'a* in the town to build houses on as the sites of their ruined houses in that road have been declared unsafe. Will the Chief Commissioner say after this that the natives were not rendered houseless? As for the statement that it had been proposed to build houses for native residents at the public expense, let it suffice to say that a poor clerk made an application, praying for the favour, but without success. It is not also true that the earthquake did no harm to the crops. Great damage was done to the rice and orange crops and also to lime stone. Mr. Cotton is angry because his conduct in connection with the earthquake has been unfavourably criticised in the *East* and the *Sanjivani*. But why should people refrain from criticising his Government, when there is much in it to find fault with?

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,  
1st fortnight of  
Aswin, 1304, B.S.

17. The *Tripura Hitaishi* for the first fortnight of Aswin, 1304 B.S., writes as follows, with reference to the offer of the Native Chiefs to serve in the Frontier expedition:—

The offer of Native Chiefs to serve in the Frontier expedition. We wish to know what the Foreign Office has to say on this expression of sincere loyalty and devotion of the Native Chiefs. The Native Chiefs are always loyal, but their treatment by the Foreign Office is truly mournful. We hope that after this striking proof of their loyalty, the Government will modify its policy with regard to the Native Chiefs. It is not mere lip loyalty which the Native Chiefs are showing; they are prepared to serve the Government in the battle-field with their lives. Such incidents are rare in the history of the world.



## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

18. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 29th September invokes the goddess Durga as follows:—

An invocation to the goddess Durga.

Supreme goddess, do you feel the mighty force of the famine extending all over India? Are you aware of the hundreds of thousands of deaths from starvation in the North-Western Provinces? Did you see the horrid sight of living human frames dragged about by dogs and jackals? Did that heart-rending howl of agony make you uneasy? Did you think for a moment over the sufferings of your wretched children? Mother, to whose care have you committed us that you are free from anxiety on our account? Mother, whoever he may be upon whom you rely, hear now that there is no one to look after us. Mother, you who are feeder of the world, if you had poured the water of grace on the conflagration of a terrible famine, hundreds of thousands of people would not have died prematurely. Mother, you have always been propitious to Indians, you have always afforded your down-trodden children protection. Why then are you so hard-hearted to-day? Mother, we see that we have to cry in this way in consequence of our own deeds. Mother, we have offended you in a hundred ways, but still we are your children. Does it become a mother to be angry with her children? Mother, you who are feeder of the world, we do not know how to procure our daily food. Look on us with propitious eyes, take us on your lap, if we have offended, chastise us first and then fondle us. If we must remain motherless, we do not care for any other happiness on earth.

Supreme goddess, are you aware of the plague in Bombay? There are wailings in every house in Bombay on account of the all-devouring rage of the plague. People can hardly behold unmoved the pitiable condition of Bombay to-day. There is first the raging of the plague, as terrible as the god of death himself. There is again the alarming conduct of the plague officers. We have not yet been able to ascertain who has suffered what, how many persons have been oppressed and how many will be oppressed. Mother, knowing that you are coming, we are storing all our grievances in order one after another. Mother, you who are destroyer of demons, come and trample upon our sorrows. Mother, if you be only gracious to us, we need not fear anything. As the public feared from the all-pervading power of the plague at Bombay that it would spread to all India, so men of light and leading in Bombay, and all editors and proprietor of newspapers in India, have been still more alarmed by certain facts in connection with the plague. Mother, will you not relieve us of this fear? Will you keep us immersed in a sea of anxieties for ever? Mother, do you not see that we are foundering and floundering?

19. Following the example of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Indian Mirror* and the *Bengalee*, the *Samay* of the 1st October appears in black as a sign of mourning for the imprisonment of "the Hon'ble Mr. Tilak, the great patriot." For a native journalist the only way to express his grief is to mourn and wear mourning.

The *Hitavadi* in black on account of Mr. Tilak's incarceration.

20. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st October appears in black on account of the incarceration of Mr. Tilak.

21. The same paper says:—

Tilak's imprisonment.

There are not many men in this country so brave and patriotic as Mr. Tilak. Cowardice will cease to form a trait in the character of the people of this country if those cowards who begin to lick a man's feet, as soon as he frowns at them, follow Mr. Tilak's example.

Government was ready to let off Tilak if he would only apologise. But Tilak did not seek to avoid personal suffering by proving a traitor to his country and by throwing obstacles in the way of her progress. If he had made only an indirect apology, he would have saved himself this disgrace, this harassment, this imprisonment. By so doing he could have sat again in the Legislative Council. But he has preferred pain, dishonour and imprisonment. Tilak has been removed from the Umarcheri Jail to the Yaroda Jail, where he is now undergoing prison labour. This is indeed painful to him, but he has earned a place in people's eyes and hearts which is unattainable by anybody else.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Sept. 29th, 1897.

SAMAY,  
Oct. 1st, 1897.

HITAVADI,  
Oct. 1st, 1897.

HITAVADI.



Neither the *Englishman* nor the *Statesman*, nor the *Pioneer*, nor, for the matter of that, any other Anglo-Indian paper has made mention of the fact of Tilak's having been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment. The English correspondents of those papers considered that sentence so hard that they were ashamed to mention it in their telegrams. Thus, whether friend or foe, everybody, however he might express himself, is at heart sorry for Tilak. Tilak has suffered imprisonment, simply because the officials were determined to carry their point. Who will say when this country will be delivered from this care for prestige? The English public is our only hope in this matter.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVADVAHIKA,  
URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

22. An acrimonious correspondence is going on in the columns of the *Samvadvaika* and the *Uriya* and *Navasamvad* regarding the condition of the municipal roads in the Balasore town, the former writing in behalf of that municipality and the latter against it. The writers are fighting like two violent partisans. The writings are, however, confined to the correspondence columns, the editors keeping themselves aloof from the contest.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
August 21st, 1897.

23. The *Utkaldipika* of the 21st August is glad to notice the donation of one lakh of rupees made by the Raja of Khalikote towards the support of the Berhampur College, in Ganjam, and observes that the Madras Government should make a suitable recognition of the princely donation, as no Raja of Orissa has hitherto contributed such a large sum towards the maintenance of a public institution.

UTKALDIPIKA.

24. The same paper is sorry to find that the attitude of Government towards the Native Press is far from being a desirable one. The liberty of the Press is a valuable right, which has been wisely conferred on the people of India. It would be injurious both to the rulers and the ruled, if that right were withdrawn in any way. The majority of the Native Papers are loyal and if some write seditious articles, they may be punished easily under the existing law. There is no necessity for enacting a law that may have in any way the effect of extinguishing a fair criticism of Government.

UTKALDIPIKA.

25. Referring to the settlement of Orissa, the same paper is sorry to find that while Government revenue is increasing from 60 to 90 per cent., the profits of the zamindars are decreasing from 25 to 10 per cent. This is unfair, as the increase of the *jama* is due in a great measure to the economical management and industrious habits of the zamindars. The writer advises Government to keep 50 per cent. of the increase for itself and allow the zamindars to retain 50 per cent. for themselves, as that would be a fair arrangement. This fair principle ought to govern the determination of the rate of *malikana* to be granted to the zamindars.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
August 18th, 1897.

26. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 18th August is of opinion that the post of Naib Tahsildar in that town having fallen vacant temporarily, a competent native of that place ought to be appointed to the vacant post, as it is bad policy to indent foreigners, when local men are available.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
August 25th, 1897.

27. The *Uriya* and *Navasamvad* of the 25th August observes that the condition of the Balighat road in the Balasore Municipality is far from desirable. It is said to be in such a dangerous condition as to make travelling almost impossible. The writer therefore earnestly draws the attention of the municipal authorities to the same.

SAMVADVAHIKA,  
August 26th, 1897.

28. The *Samvadvaika* of the 26th August is informed that the relief operations carried on in the Ganjam district are at a stand-still, owing to want of paddy in the market. As a consequence, many famished men and women run the risk of entering into an extreme stage of starvation, when no subsequent relief will be of any avail.



29. Referring to the proposal of certain English papers that the wording of section 124A of the Indian Penal Code should be so modified as to enable the Government to stop a newspaper when it contains offensive matter, the *Utkaldipika* of the 28th August observes that no better way of abolishing all expressions of public opinion could be devised.

UTKAL DIPIKA,  
August 28th, 1897.

30. The same paper sympathises with the endeavours of the Balasore National Society to unite the zamindars of Orissa, to make them contribute one per cent. on their individual *jama* towards the expenses of a movement for the protection of their interests and to lay their grievances in connection with the settlement before the higher authorities.

UTKALDIPIKA.

31. Referring to the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act Amendment Bill, the same paper is strongly of opinion that the proposal to withdraw the jurisdiction of the Civil Court from the settlement of the fair *jama* is a move in the wrong direction and no wise man would advocate such a retrograde principle. This is nowhere so true as in Orissa, where a large number of young and inexperienced Assistant Settlement Officers have by their action proved to the landlords and tenants that they are either ignorant of, or imperfectly acquainted with, judicial procedure. The Revenue Officers, however able and experienced they may be, are after all interested parties in cases in which the dispute lies between the Government and the zamindars, and they can never inspire that confidence, which a regularly constituted Civil Court can in the usual course do. Besides there is no necessity for divesting the Civil Court of the jurisdiction, which it possesses under the present law. The writer is unable to understand why clause (3) of section 104 of the Bengal Tenancy Act relating to the presumption that the existing rent is fair and equitable, until the contrary is proved, has been omitted from the amending Bill in question. This clause proved very useful in the settlement of a fair rent in Orissa and its absence from the present Bill must lead to unnecessary litigation.

UTKALDIPIKA.

32. The same paper views with delight the discussion of the question of separating the Executive Branch of the Civil Service in India from the Judicial, in the English papers to hand, and hopes that the growing public opinion in England in favour of the much needed reform will ultimately lead to the separation of the two services, as that can be done as pointed out by experts without much additional cost.

UTKALDIPIKA.

33. The same paper points out that the last year was a year of distress in Orissa. Government knows it very well. The distress affected both the zamindars and the raiyats of Orissa and the relief works started in that Province point to the inability of many to tide over the calamity without help from Government. The remarkably poor zamindars and raiyats of that Province can never meet the consequences of drought and inundation single-handed, and it is therefore necessary that Government should come to their rescue. The writer proposes that Government should remit a portion of their revenue and thereby remove a burden from the shoulders of both zamindars and raiyats, whose resources have been exhausted. Remission of revenue is generally granted in temporarily-settled estates on occasions of dire calamity or grave distress, and the writer thinks that the present is the fittest opportunity for the display of that generosity and sympathy for which the British Government is famous. The writer is aware that most of the zamindars paid their revenue on the last *latbundi* day by borrowing money at heavy interest, while the zamindaris of many were sold by public auction. The zamindars have not yet been able to realise their dues from the raiyats, who are unable to pay. The writer hopes that the generous Government will take the misfortunes of both the zamindars and the raiyats of Orissa into their kind consideration and remit a portion of the revenue payable by them. The writer further points out that the abolition of a large number of protective embankments by the Government has converted thousands of acres of arable land into sandy wastes where no crop can be grown.

UTKALDIPIKA.



## ASSAM PAPERS.

SILCHAR,  
2nd fortnight of  
Bhadra, 1304 B.S.

34. The *Silchar* for the second fortnight of Bhadra complains that a theft case, which was instituted in June last, was disposed of on the 10th September, so that the accused had to rot in *hajat* for three months. Cachar is a small district and the number of cases is not large, nor the number of Magistrates inadequate. Why should accused persons then rot in *hajat*? Under-trial prisoners have to suffer in this way simply owing to the indolence of the Magistrates. Stealing of money is theft. Is not stealing of time by judicial officers in receipt of a pay of Rs. 16 or 20 per diem, theft too? The Chief Commissioner should keep himself informed of the number of days which a Magistrate takes to dispose of a case. This will rouse them from their lethargy.

SILCHAR.

35. The same paper says that Babu Isanchandra Palit, Police Sub-Inspector of Hailakandi, is an old and experienced police officer. Sometime ago he brought several persons guilty of coining, to justice. It was proposed to grant him a reward for this. But he has not yet received it. An Inspectorship will be the fittest reward for him. It is said that an Inspectorship has been sanctioned for Hailakandi. If this is true, the office should be conferred upon him.

SILCHAR.

36. On the 15th September last the editor of the same paper found two persons lying in a moribund state on the streets at Cachar. Why do not the town police and Municipality look after such persons?

The Cachar police.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 9th October 1897.